

PRACTICAL NEUROLOGY—Leo M. Davidoff, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and Emanuel H. Feiring, M.D., Associate Professor of Surgery (Neurosurgery), Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Landsberger Medical Books, Inc., distributed solely by the Blakiston Division of the McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York, 1955. 442 pages, \$7.00.

This book is intended as a handy guide to neurology for the general practitioner. It is well written, in a rather informal style, with an adequate consideration of the neurological examination. The authors have left out anatomical and physiological background in order to present the essential clinical facts in as small a compass as possible.

Whether such a book, which can almost be said to fall between the usual text and the family "doctor book" popular in the last century, fills a useful purpose is hard to say. Except for a rather obviously surgical viewpoint, not remarkable in view of the authorship, the contents can be accepted as presenting the best of modern thought in the field. That it will make a competent neurologist of the general practitioner is very doubtful; it may, however, serve to guide him in regard to proper reference of neurological patients. It would seem, however, that he would be better advised to invest in one of the standard texts on the subject.

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MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING FOR SOCIAL ACTION—George S. Stevenson, M.D., Sc.D., National and International Consultant, The National Association for Mental Health, Inc., The Blakiston Division, McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1956. 358 pages, \$6.50.

In 1908 Clifford Beers began the mental health movement. This book reviews the accomplishments since then, its present status, and goals for the future.

The mental health field encompasses three sets of objectives. One is the restoration of health for mentally sick persons. A second deals with preventive services for persons who might become ill if not protected from conditions conducive to mental illness. The third objective focuses on the upbuilding of mental health in normal persons; this is positive mental health.

Mental handicaps affect some nine million persons enough to require special help. These persons involve their families, friends and communities in their illness. They impose a larger financial burden on society than any other illness. Yet nowhere in our country do we make full use of known treatments to reduce this burden. In mental illness the public condones some degree of neglect unlike other illnesses.

The most serious psychiatric problems today are alcoholism, mental illness of aging, schizophrenia and psychoneuroses including psychosomatic disorders.

State hospitals treating 750,000 patients each year cost nearly half a billion dollars annually. Yet few are adequately staffed or meet minimal standards. Some 52 per cent of the hospital patients in the U. S. are in psychiatric facilities. Few general hospitals will accept psychiatric patients although it is known that many can be treated quickly with good results and without being medical or nursing problems. Gradually hospitals are overcoming their prejudices and great changes are expected in this area.

In the preventive field the emphasis is currently on improving parental handling of children since the interplay of emotions in the family sets the stage for future mental health or illness. Environmental or cultural dislocations such as frequent changes of family residence or school give rise to potential emotional hazards. In addition to the doctor, the school, church, opportunities for work and recreation are some of the social institutions involved in preventive health activities. In particular, public health authorities have begun to turn their attention to the epidemiology of mental illness.

The positive mental health program seeks to help individuals discover their potentialities and how best these may be cultivated to the end that they enjoy richer, more satisfying lives. The community profits through greater productivity and better human relationships. To what extent this positive mental health program can prevent mental illness is unknown. At present the field of education has manifested most interest in this approach. However, many potentially gifted individuals are still lost to society through lack of assistance at crucial periods in their lives.

In this book the author has successfully encompassed a very broad field, one in which he is unquestionably an authority, showing how to make the most of our knowledge and facilities for promoting better mental health. He offers no short-cuts or panaceas but attempts to point the direction in which we must go to achieve the goals of positive mental health "not merely to extend human life but to augment its power." All individuals and groups working in the mental health field, whether physicians, lawyers, judges, welfare agencies, clergy, teachers, police or sociologists, will find much of value in this book.

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TEXTBOOK OF GYNECOLOGY—Fifth Edition—Emil Novak, A.B., M.D., D.Sc.(Hon.), F.A.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. (Hon.), Assistant Professor Emeritus of Gynecology, The Johns Hopkins Medical School; and Edmund R. Novak, A.B., M.D., F.A.C.S., Instructor in Gynecology, The Johns Hopkins Medical School. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1956. 840 pages, \$11.00.

The publication of a fifth edition, appearing only three years after the previous issue, attests to the continued popularity of the Textbook of Gynecology by Emil and Edmund R. Novak. The new edition is larger by 40 pages and 20 added illustrations, but the straightforward style, characteristic of all of Emil Novak's writings has been preserved. Whatever advances have been made in the field of gynecology within the last few years have been incorporated in the present edition. The two chapters dealing with the malignancies of the uterus have been extensively revised and the chapter on tuberculosis has been re-written completely with the addition of modern drug and antibiotic therapy. The list of references appended to each chapter has been amended with additional source material. It seems hardly necessary to repeat what is well known, namely, that the Novak text is a thoroughly practical condensation of modern gynecology presented in an easily readable style and well illustrated throughout.

The Williams and Wilkins Company of Baltimore, Maryland, presents the new issue printed in clear large type on good paper and attractively bound.

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DISEASES OF THE SKIN—11th Edition—Richard L. Sutton, Jr., A.M., M.D., F.R.S. (Edin.), Chairman of the Department of Dermatology, University of Kansas Medical Center. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1956. 1479 pages, 1972 illustrations, \$29.50.

This is the 11th edition of one of the finest standard texts in the field of dermatology. While previous editions were edited by father and son, the present edition is authored only by the son, who maintains the high quality of the previous texts.

The text covers 1,479 pages. The illustrations of clinical conditions and pathology are excellent. Each disorder is described with reference to the clinical symptoms, etiology, pathology, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment. Each of the above aspects of every disease handled in a thorough, easily readable manner. References are placed directly in the text immediately following the material discussed.

The book is highly recommended as a standard text to medical students, general practitioners and dermatologists.